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678CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~COUNTRY BulgariaREPORT NO. 25X1TOPIC Development and Organization of the Bulgarian Air ForceEVALUATION 25X1PLACE OBTAINED 25X1DATE OF CONTENT May 1948DATE OBTAINED 25X1DATE PREPARED 25X1

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REMARKS _____

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1. The Bulgarian Air Force as an independent branch of service was directly assigned to the Ministry of National Defense. The Operations Department (Oper. otделение), the CI Department (Ratsusnaevatelno otделение), and the Training Department (Uchevno otделение) of the High Command of the Air Forces were located in the premises of the Ministry of National Defense in Sofia. The other departments were in the barracks of the former 6th Inf Regt on ul. Yeftimi.

2. Toward the end of the war, the component units of an air division had the following authorized strengths:

1 krilo - 4 aircraft - platoon (Svod)
 1 yato - 3 krilos - 12 aircraft - company (rota)
 1 orlayk - 3 yatos - 36 aircraft
 1 regiment (polk) - 3 orlyuks - 108 aircraft
 1 division - 3 regiments

Two regiments were called a brigade. A headquarters flight (chetvorka) of four planes was assigned to each fighter orlyak.

3. After conclusion of the peace treaty a reorganization became necessary including the dissolution of the third air regiments of the air divisions. The divisions then had the following organizations:

1 yato - 7 aircraft
 1 regiment (polk) - 2 yatos - 14 aircraft
 1 division - 2 regiments - 28 aircraft.

4. An organization strictly along Soviet lines was planned, but in May 1948 had not been put into practice. The Soviet organization is as follows:

1 krilo - 3 aircraft
 1 yato - 4 krilos - 12 aircraft
 1 regiment (polk) - 4 yatos - 48 aircraft.

5. The limitation of aircraft to 70, laid down in the peace treaty, and the shortage of trained personnel have so far prevented a clear organization. The continual reorganizations are probably precautionary measures taken in view of the possibility of inspections by the Allied Control Commission.

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6. Four air regiments existed in Bulgaria toward the end of the war, i.e.:

6th Pz Regt,
2d GA Regt (dive bombers),
5th Bz Regt,
1st Recon Regt with a naval air unit in VAMPA (B 6/H 10)

In cooperation between Soviet instructors and Bulgarian officers who had come to Bulgaria from the Soviet Union after the war, the Bulgarian Air Force was reorganized on Soviet pattern. The existing air regiments were redesignated air divisions. The reconnaissance regiment was dissolved since aircraft were no longer available. The new divisions were subdivided into three regiments each, the third regiments remaining cadre units. In spite of these organizational changes, the number of aircraft assigned to the individual units was diminished in accordance with the stipulations of the peace treaty.

7. The various tactical symbols with which the planes were marked were removed after the reorganization and Soviet training methods and regulations were introduced. Due to a lack of aircraft and a strict rationing of aviation fuel, the pilots were essentially trained on the ground.

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Comments:

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Subject report supplements another report [redacted] The report cannot be verified for lack of comparable information.

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